United Nations S/2004/138

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 February 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 23 February 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding the incident which took place on 19 February 2004 in Budapest, Hungary, when an Armenian officer was murdered (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Elshad **Iskandarov**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

04-24940 (E) 250204

Annex to the letter dated 23 February 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

20 February 2004

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan expresses its regret with regard to the incident, which took place in Budapest on 19 February 2004, where an Armenian officer was murdered, and extends its condolences to his colleagues and family.

The Ministry draws attention to the fact that Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani military officer, detained as a suspect in the murder, belongs to a refugee family from the Jabrail district of Azerbaijan, which had been seized by Armenian aggressors. All the property of his family has been looted and several of his relatives have been killed by the invaders. According to the information available so far, the Armenian officer had repeatedly made humiliating statements addressed to Ramil Safarov, offending his honour and dignity as a citizen and officer of the Republic of Azerbaijan and insulting the memory of the victims of Armenian aggression. All that could not but affect the emotional condition of Ramil Safarov.

Azerbaijan urges the Armenian side to refrain from accusatory statements and assessments towards the Government and people of Azerbaijan. The incident in Budapest should not be allowed to accelerate further deterioration of already tense relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The incident is yet more evidence of the intensity of the situation stemming from the unresolved status of the conflict, and proves the need for increased efforts by the international community to settle the conflict on the basis of the principles of international law. This is the only way to overcome the enmity between two nations and pave the path towards peace and good-neighbourliness.